

The Times - Dispatch

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MONDAY, JULY 11, 1910.

STILL FEELING THE ROOSEVELT PANIC.

We are not yet out of the woods, despite all that is claimed for the new tariff law, and the fact that the chief disturber of the business prosperity of the country has returned and threatens to continue and extend his evil influence is causing grave concern to many who expected a substantial rally from the Roosevelt Panic of 1907. Dun's report for the first six months of the present year shows that there were 6,558 commercial failures, with liabilities of \$112,253,970, as compared with 5,831 failures, with liabilities of \$88,641,373 during the first six months of 1909, and 5,769 with liabilities of \$124,374,833 in the first six months of 1908, the year immediately succeeding the Roosevelt Panic.

With the single exception of the year after the Roosevelt Panic, the commercial failures in the first six months of the present year exceeded in number and liabilities the failures in any year during the last decade. This is not encouraging, but it is a condition well worth the consideration of all who are whistling to keep up their courage. It should also make the people rather careful about following the lead of the political quack to whose attacks upon the so-called "vested interests" the commercial and financial distress of the country may be directly traced.

There is nothing better than a band-saw to convert timber into merchantable lumber, yet such an instrument would not be selected with which to perform a delicate surgical operation. The club in the hands of a policeman truly great is an effective weapon of both offence and defence, but the officer who used it indiscriminately upon all the needs within reach would be dismissed from the force.

THE MUFFLER IS THE THING.

At its meeting to-night, City Council should not forget, in legislating on the automobile, to insist that the cars shall all be supplied with mufflers. An experienced driver and owner of several cars informs us that the mufflers help to smother the sound without affecting the speed of the cars or destroying the pleasure of riding in them. By all means, Council should insist upon the mufflers.

Then, there are the horns. Council certainly has the power to regulate them. It is done in other progressive cities, where it is a finable offence for automobiles to carry siren whistles, and the too-loud type of horn should be punishable by both fine and imprisonment. Better be killed by a machine with a frog-in-the-throat horn than to be killed by a thing which sounds more like reveille than taps.

Then, there are the children and young persons and immature grown-ups who ought to be forbidden to manage automobiles in the streets of the city. They can all be reached by requiring them to pass a real examination—such an examination, for example, as a Republican voter in South Carolina is required to stand on constitutional questions when he wishes to qualify himself for the suffrage.

There is a way to get at all the objectionable features of automobiling if Council will go at it as business in a business-like way. It ought to do this to-night.

WATCHING THE WIRES.

The Western Union Telegraph Company had Wall Street guessing the other day when it restored telegraph connections to a number of offices from which the wires had been taken two days before. The refusal of the Company to lease wires to bucket-shops followed the prosecution of these stock gamblers by the Government, and when the wires were cut, it was generally thought that the Telegraph Company had been instructed to withhold service by the Government; but when the wires were replaced, without a word of explanation, nobody could offer an explanation.

The chances are, of course, that the Telegraph people removed the wires from the bucket shops and small brokers' offices, as a warning to the men who had leased them. The Company knew, or strongly suspected, that the wires were being used for gambling, and wanted to show the men who read the tickers that their occupation is gone when they violate the law. Without telegraph and telephone connection a bucketshop is as helpless as a Texan is without a gun.

If this be the case, the Company has done the right thing in the circumstances. If the telegraph corporations want to violate the law, or to encourage others to violate the law, the Government has very little chance of detecting infractions of the law; but when the Company honestly strives to reduce gambling over its wires, it can greatly strengthen the hands of the Government.

There is no reason in the world why the Telegraph Companies should not

supervise the use of their wires and be positive that the wires are not illegally operated for gambling. The Company should likewise know something of the men who apply for special wires. Every other business of a public character scrutinizes its patrons. A newspaper will not accept the advertisements of a firm that it knows to be disreputable, and a cautious dealer will not sell a man he knows to be dishonest, even with the cash in hand. The Telegraph people cannot afford to be less careful than other men.

SAMPLES OF OUR SELF-GOVERNING GENIUS.

In the famous Guildhall speech this rule was laid down for the English people: "It is your first duty to keep order. Where the people treat assassination as the cornerstone of self-government they forfeit all right to be treated as worthy of self-government." Just so; but there was no use getting mad about it. Besides, in our own happy and law-abiding country there is so much to attract the attention of serious-minded reformers that they might be kept busy here without trying to police the world. What a great thing it would be if we would attend to our own business and give other people a chance to do the same thing for themselves. Last Sunday a Baptist minister in this town offered up a timely prayer when he asked the Lord to impress us with the knowledge that "we are not the only people on this footstool."

Thursday afternoon Carl Ehrington, who had been employed by the State Anti-Saloon League of Ohio, killed the proprietor of a saloon at Newark and was lodged in jail. Thursday night the doors of the jail were battered down by a mob and the young man was put to death, the leaders of the mob, we are soberly informed, being his personal friends. On Thursday forty or fifty soldiers from Fort Myer stormed the county jail of Alexandria in an effort to lynch Robert Jackson, a negro, who had stabbed a member of Battery D, third United States Artillery, in a quarrel about the prize fight at Reno. It is said that the sheriff of Licking County may be suspended because he did not protect his prisoner, and the captain of Battery D is said to have taken "personal possession of the keys to the gun racks and ammunition chests of the Battery" as a precautionary measure.

Yet these and other things exactly like them have taken place in this self-governing land over and over again. Our sheriffs have proved many times to be powerless in the face of the mob, and our soldiers cannot be allowed to take care of their own guns lest they employ them even as the mob employs the rope and the fagot to put men to death without the formality of trial. A nice country this, to tell the people of other countries how they should manage their affairs!

The bloody work of the last few days in Ohio does not encourage the feeling that we are in any sense qualified to teach good government. When the officers of the law are helpless before the mob and the mob is composed of men in the uniform of the soldier, it would seem that we might very well save our Guildhall speeches for home consumption and intermit our determination to save Egypt until we have saved America.

DON'T FORGET THAT CURFEW LAW.

It is hoped that City Council at its meeting to-night will not forget to declare a curfew law for the automobilists. Eleven o'clock these short summer nights is late enough for them to be out. At a rough guess, there are probably a thousand cars in Richmond. If they were all going with full passenger lists they would accommodate about five thousand persons. That would leave 125,000 other persons who do not ride. The idea of government is to secure the greatest good of the largest number. As 1,000 is to 125,000 should the rights of the Council, which is supposed to represent the whole body-politic. We should be willing to compromise on a curfew law for the summer season. It would not make so much difference when the weather is cold and the windows are down.

MAJOR VENABLE.

Major Richard Morton Venable died at his home in Charlottesville yesterday. He was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, February 8, 1839. He was graduated from Hampden-Sydney College with the A. B. degree in 1857, and was honored with the degree of LL. D. by that institution in 1888. After completing his college course he matriculated at the University of Virginia, and finished his course there in 1859-1860. When the war began he entered the Confederate service as a private soldier in April, 1861, and fought to the finish in 1865, rising to the rank of major of artillery and engineers. He served in the Army of Northern Virginia and in the Trans-Mississippi Department, and in all his service he illustrated the courage and chivalry of the race from which he sprang, and of the State to which he offered his life.

In 1868 he was Professor of Engineering in the University of Louisiana; in 1867 he accepted the chair of mathematics in the Washington and Lee University, and in 1868 he received from that institution the degree of LL. B. The following year he began the practice of law in Baltimore and establishing his residence in that city, instantly achieved great success in his profession. He was a member of the Baltimore City Council in 1899-1903, was at one time president of the Board of Park Commissioners of that city, was professor of law in the University of Maryland in 1870-1906, was a trustee of Johns Hopkins University, and always took an

active part in every movement having in view the welfare of the city of his residence.

A man of the highest character, of the loftiest conception of what good citizenship is, loyal to his convictions, whatever the penalty that might be exacted, and possessed of remarkable gifts of eloquent speech, he was one of the men of mark of his day and generation. His death will be deplored by all his neighbors, and by the people of his native State, but most of all by those who endured with him the dangers of the battlefield where he proved his courage and devotion to his country.

THE SLEEPING CAR SITUATION.

The Interstate Commerce Commission recently ordered a reduction in sleeping car rates on some of the Western roads. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago has granted a stay pending a rehearing on the question of the justice of the reduction ordered by the Commission. The Court, however, has ordered the railroads to file a bond out of which passengers paying present rates shall be reimbursed should the Commission insist upon the reduction. The railroads claim that they cannot afford to operate the sleeping car service at less than the present rates. The Santa Fe claims that it loses \$56,000 a year on the sleeping cars attached to one of its trains, and the St. Paul road protests that its sleeping cars are operated at an annual loss of \$500,000. It is said that the Commission will obey the order of the Court; but that it is surprised at the decision suspending the order of the Commission.

Doubtless; but if the reduced rates will not enable the railroads to pay the cost of operating the sleeping car service, we do not suppose that there is any law which will compel them to continue the service, and as prudent business enterprises they could not be compelled or expected to do business at a steady and accumulating loss. Five hundred thousand dollars a year means a million dollars every two years or five million dollars every decade, and that would be more than the traffic of the St. Paul could be expected to stand. This loss, however, is what the St. Paul is now sustaining even with the present rates, and how it can stand the loss we do not know. At the meeting of the Santa Fe directors on Friday, however, the "regular dividend upon the company's common stock" was declared, and "this taken in connection with the declaration of the regular dividend on St. Paul common stock yesterday (Thursday) went a good way toward inspiring at least a speculative confidence in the financial district."

As one of Rouse's old Scottish Psalms puts it, "such knowledge is too strange for us, too high to understand," but there it is and as we look at it St. Paul is trying to fill on a busted flush. We are not quite sure of the terminology, but that is the way it seems to a wayfarer who is only seeking the light. Manifestly, the railroads should not be required, and cannot be required except by a species of commission and judicial confiscation, to render service without reward, and if they cannot make the sleeping cars pay their own way there is no law that we know which can compel them to keep them on.

GAYNOR BURNS HIS OWN BOOM.

A State League of Gaynor Clubs has been formed in New York. Nobody seems to know who started it. Mayor Gaynor has denied all knowledge of it, and any responsibility for it, and said the other day: "All I ask is that no one mention my name for any political office. I do not want any, and I am certain that I shall never ask for any. I have all I can do on my hands now." It is said that this disposes of the Gaynor "boom" for the Democratic nomination for President, at least that is the meaning some of the wisecracks have read into the Mayor's statement.

It is one of the strange things about the politics of these grand and awful times that no sooner is a Democrat elected Mayor or something of one of the big cities of the country than he is immediately seized upon as an available candidate for President. Judge Gaynor is making a very good Mayor of New York. He is not always prudent in speech; he sometimes violates the proprieties of public occasions; he is making his mark, and a very good mark. In his present office, but as the old topical song expresses it, "it's a durned long way from Schenectady to Troy." It is just possible that a man might be elected Mayor of New York or Chicago or Philadelphia and yet not be elected President of the United States.

DR. COOK'S ESKIMOS.

Knud Rasmussen, the Danish explorer, will sail from Copenhagen today for Greenland on a tour of exploration, or discovery, in the Arctic, which will last six years. Peter Freuchen, the Greenland expert, has promised to join his expedition and witness his (Rasmussen's) cross-examination of Dr. Cook's Eskimos. Rasmussen believed in Dr. Cook at first, but afterwards changed his mind. Feeling, doubtless, that he has done the Great Explorer injustice, he probably now intends to fortify his original opinion as to the good faith of Dr. Cook's findings by talking to the Eskimos who went with the intrepid Cook to the Pole. We shall await Rasmussen's report with interest.

Several days ago a sailor who had climbed Mount McKinley reported that he had found on the summit of that mountain the little brass, or copper, tube in which Dr. Cook deposited the record of his ascent, read the record over, found it exactly as Dr. Cook had said it was, put the record back where he found it, and then came down the mountain to tell the world about it. Here was a man, a com-

mon sailor, whom nobody ever heard of before (sailors are proverbially square men), who, in the spirit of truth and adventure, climbs on his stout legs to the top of McKinley and brings back with him thorough corroboration of the story that Dr. Cook has told about his perilous ascent to the topmost peak of this continent, an ascent which recent prevaricators have pronounced about the easiest thing in mountain climbing that has ever been known.

The time is coming, never fear, when the last word will be written about Dr. Cook; but not yet, not yet. When Rasmussen reaches Greenland he will probably meet Dr. Cook on his return from his second journey to the Pole. No one can say positively that such will not be the case. Harry Whitney has already gone up that way, and John Bradley has been keeping his own counsel very closely ever since the alleged disappearance of the Doctor several months ago.

THE SUN'S CRUSADE.

There is little peace in the good city of Baltimore these days. The muck-rakers have come to town; the scandal-mongers are walking the streets; sensation follows sensation. A few weeks ago the integrity of the City Council was assailed, and charges were made that a number of Councilmen had been bribed to vote for particular ordinances. This storm had not blown over before another was raised in a different quarter, and now the police force is the centre of the disturbance. The Chief of Detectives has been displaced, a number of officers have been dismissed from the service, and a general police shake-up is expected.

It is noticeable that trouble began in Baltimore as soon as the Sun paper changed hands. The old Sun had been very conservative and had smiled peacefully on the city for generations under the management of the Abells. When it was sold, however, and passed under the control of Charles H. Grasty it at once began a warm campaign against the existing order. Its editorial tone was not greatly modified, but it began to print back-page editorial articles in the form of news stories, according to a system well known to newspaper men, and these articles have been in a large measure responsible for what has happened in Baltimore.

It is a little unsafe to judge the situation from this distance, and until all the grand jury investigations have been made, the public should not pass a verdict on Mr. Grasty and his paper. If the charges made by the Sun can be sustained, that newspaper deserves the thanks of every friend of honest government in America; but if its charges are not sustained, Mr. Grasty should be held up as a warning to the newspaper profession everywhere. If he is a muck-raker, he deserves no sympathy and no support; if he is a friend of honest city government he deserves to be approved and applauded. The next few weeks should decide which.

Whatever may be the outcome, the wisdom and justice of such a campaign as the Sun has been making is to be questioned on principle. Is a newspaper justified in beginning a general assault on the integrity of any municipal body and the efficiency of its whole police force? The broad side hits as many innocent men as guilty, and generally it does about as much harm as good. It sometimes strikes the man at whom all the shots are aimed, but more frequently it injures honest men and damages good reputations almost beyond repair.

A newspaper has many responsibilities, but it has no responsibility as great as that of dealing justly with all men. It should defend the public, but it should not prosecute the individual, and while it must befriend every good cause it should never attack unless it knows the guilt of the accused and can assert the innocence of others.

WALTER UP AGAIN.

We knew Walter Wellman would not down. It was a cruel blow, of course, that fell when Cook and Peary both came back and said they had reached the Pole just at the time when Walter was preparing to begin his preparations for the preliminaries of a proposed attempt to find out whether or not he could reach the Pole. He had gone through all these preliminaries so often before and had written so many reports on them at great length, that people had begun to fear that he never would get to the Pole; but still it was distressing that his plan was upset by Cook and Peary.

Walter has now decided to try a flight across the Atlantic in the dirigible which he built for his Arctic journey. He says he has tested this machine in short flights over the Arctic, north of Spitzbergen, and feels sure that it will prove equal to the occasion. A number of enterprising newspapers will back him as heretofore, and will print stories which he will transmit by wireless while en route across the ocean.

This all sounds very beautiful, and one can imagine the kind of story Walter would dash off in fury while sailing over the broad Atlantic at fifty miles the hour, laughing at the slow liners beneath him and fitting like a mighty bird through the ether. Yet we caution the public of this part of the world not to take Walter too seriously. He is a good newspaper man, but he has not been a striking success as an aviator and has spent more time in preparation than in

achievement. We suspect the old story will be repeated, and Walter will find himself forced to postpone his journey, to remodel his machine, to make repairs and to carry on preliminary experiments until the country gets tired of him and his plans.

So far as we can see, there is no reason why some one should not cross the Atlantic in a dirigible even if Walter is not the man to do it. The success of the journey will depend entirely upon the ability of some man to make an engine that will stand the test of any weather and will not fail in any emergency. This, of course, is much to demand, as the wreck of the Deutschland showed, but it is not impossible. The rest is comparatively easy, as there is no limit to the size of the dirigible and practically no limit to its lifting power. No one knows, to be sure, how strong the winds may be over the Atlantic, but it is not unlikely that an engine can be invented which will keep the dirigible pointed right in the heaviest storm.

The mere possibility is certainly inviting. Twenty years ago it would have seemed an idle dream, and a hundred years ago a man who proposed it would have been looked on as a maniac, but now, no one will regard it as anything more than a natural step in the forward movement of science. Twenty years from now it may be an every-day matter. The ocean will cease to be a barrier between the nations, and space will be no more.

THE PEOPLE STILL READ.

If any one think that the American people are not interested in things political, let him ask Senator Bourne, or Oregon. The Senator thinks otherwise, and he has good reason for his opinion. Some time ago, before Congress adjourned, he made a speech in which he discussed at length the Oregon system of popular government, and painted the beauties of the referendum in his native State. We commented on the speech at the time, as an interesting item of news, though we disagreed utterly with what the Senator had to say about the virtue of the referendum; but we did not consider the speech either epoch-making or especially brilliant. Since its delivery, however, there have been many thousand requests for the speech, and the Senator, in response to inquiries regarding it, has sent out 800,000 copies of his remarks.

Few men will take the trouble to write for a political speech unless they intend to read it, and it is safe to infer that at least half a million American voters read what the Oregonian had to say about the way they govern themselves on the coast. This means that at least one voter in 150 knows more about the referendum than he did before, and is more competent to discuss the merits and demerits of this Bryanistic paramount issue.

This is decidedly refreshing in the days of boss rule, for when the people begin to read political literature, they begin to think and are much less apt to be led by political bosses. It was so in the younger days of the Republic. Every newspaper then printed the President's messages in full and long reports of the Departments and columns of speeches about every conceivable political topic. The people read these things over and over again, and were always competent to discuss political questions intelligently. When a man entered the hustings to discuss a matter, perhaps four-fifths of his audience knew something of what he intended to say, and were not deceived by the empty sophistry of the demagogue.

It would be a great day for America if there could be a return to the participation of the voters in the making of the laws—not through the referendum, the recall or the halfhearted other devices of opportunists, but through intelligent criticism of public men and public events. Such a day may come, and certainly will come if the men who mould public opinion will take the public into their confidence, will say things worth reading and will remember that the people both read and think.

The Rev. R. F. Fisher, pastor of the Neoga Presbyterian Church, Illinois, has been sued for \$500 damages by Jacob Strohl, a wealthy German farmer, because he prayed after this manner, according to a special dispatch in the New York Sun: "O Lord, make Brother Strohl a better man; cause him to pay his debts and cease backbiting," etc., etc. The congregation was shocked, and after the minister had finished, Brother Strohl suggested, "Now, you'd better make another prayer and straighten things up with the Lord." Refusing to comply with this altogether reasonable request, Brother Strohl instituted suit against the dominie for damages in the sum of \$500 as aforesaid, and it is hoped that he will get all that he has asked for, even to the uttermost farthing.

The Charlotte Observer claims that the descendants of Colonel James Bowie, the inventor of the bowie-knife, "nearly all moved to North Carolina long ago." From the accounts of cutting scrapes published in the Observer we are quite willing to admit it.

If the people of Charleston had waited until they got their water supply from the Edisto, the town would probably have been burned down in the fire on Saturday. At least one thing was proved by the conflagration: Goose Creek water will put out fire.

One of the principal things the Charlotte constables should be taught is not to chew tobacco, unless it is made in Richmond, and not to go to sleep while they are supposed to be on duty.

It was a little warm in spots yesterday in Richmond; but think of how the people must have suffered in Savannah and Houston, not to mention Charlotte!

Daily Queries and Answers

Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

An Adopted Heir.

If a couple have never had any children and adopt a child legally in court and that child takes their name, at their death does their property go to the adopted child or to the relations of her adoptive parents?

A CONSTANT READER.

This will depend upon the will of the father in the case. If he so desires he may will his property to the child.

Justices of the Supreme Court.

Kindly answer the following questions:

1. How many justices of the United States Supreme Court?
2. How is the Chief Justice appointed or selected?
3. The court is made up of eight associate justices and a Chief Justice.
4. Nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Baseball Records.

1. Could you tell me the record time for playing a baseball game? Also what the longest game was between two teams?
2. To whom should I write for an appointment to the University of Virginia?
3. We do not know whether you desire the record for the shortest baseball game or for the longest. The longest game on record reported by the major leagues was between Athletics and Boston at Boston, September 1, 1906. This ran twenty-four innings. In the minor leagues Fargo played Grand Forks twenty-five innings to a draw, July 18, 1891.
4. Address Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, president, University of Virginia.

Phosphate in Rock.

Please give me a simple and reliable test for determination of the presence of phosphate in rocks; also the name of a reliable firm who can make a qualitative test of same.

You should write to the State Geological Survey, University of Virginia for this information.

The Actors' Association.

Please tell me where to address a letter to the Actors' Association, New York.

German Consul in Richmond.

Is there a German consul in the city of Richmond? If so, what is his name?

Greatest Wheat Crop in the World.

What country produced the greatest wheat crop and what country is second?

The United States at present leads.

ILL FATE DOGS STEPS OF ABBEY'S OWNERS

BY LA MARCHE DE FONTENAY.

LADY CHERMISIDE'S death at Andover, in Switzerland, with- out leaving any children, after having spent the last few years of her life as an invalid, will be ascribed by many to the ill fate which seems to dog the steps of the owners of Newstead Abbey, celebrated as the home of the poet, Lord Byron. He was devoted to the place, and figures in many of his poems, notably in "Childe Harold" and "Don Juan." Built as a monastery by Henry II, in the twelfth century, it was later a Becket, it has, according to local tradition, been doubly burdened by a curse. Not only was it taken from its monastic ownership at the time of the Reformation, but presented by Henry VIII to Sir John Byron, but an additional blot was brought upon it by the death of Lord Byron, who was killed in the battle of Waterloo, and the curse was perpetuated by the fifth and "Wicked" Lord Byron.

This peer happened, in the course of some building operations, to come upon the remains of an old-time abbots of Newstead. He permitted the bones to be reinterred except the skull, which he had mounted in silver and covered with a drinking cup, which he used for carousing. Indeed, it was the principal feature at the meetings of the Order of the Skull, which he formed, composed of men of the same character as himself. It was during one of these orgies that the poet, Lord Byron, killed his neighbor, Squire Chaworth of Annesley Hall, a wrong which his grandnephew and successor, the poet, sought to repair by endeavoring to marry the squire's daughter, Mary Chaworth. Although he addressed a number of verses to her, in some of which she is described as the "bright morning star of Annesley," she rejected his addresses. The tragedy with which his father was killed is preserved in the principal drawing room at Newstead Abbey, along with the sword and the cap used by the poet when fighting for the independence of Greece.

The poet is also on record as having used the abbots' skull as a drinking cup, and it is said that he scribbled a poem of six verses, beginning: "Start not, nor deem my spirit fled. In me be the only life that is left. From which, unlike a living head, Whatever flows is never dead."

During the lifetime of the poet this drinking cup disappeared, and it was the father of Lady Chermiside, the late William Frederick Webb, who some time after his purchase of the abbey, discovered it by mere chance in the second-hand bric-a-brac shop in Bedford Street, Covent Garden. He at once purchased it and caused it to be reverently reinterred within the abbey precincts. It was after this that his son was born. But so afraid was he of the curse resting on the place and lest any harm should befall his son that he declined to leave him Newstead Abbey, making, however, generous provisions for him, and bequeathed the abbey to the husband of his younger daughter, Geraldine, named Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Chermiside.

The fifth Lord Byron is credited with having been haunted by the ghost of the Dominican monk that haunts Newstead with misfortune for him, for his descendants and his grandnephew, the poet, who, as every one knows, died without male issue, after a singularly unhappy life.

with about 850,000,000 bushels. Russia is second with about 875,000,000 bushels.

Football Fatalities in 1909.

Please tell me the number of football fatalities in 1909. A READER. Thirty-two.

Adair County.

To settle a bet will you please tell me whether there is a county in Missouri called Adair? A VIRGINIAN. Yes.

Offices of the Lehigh Valley.

Where are the offices of the Lehigh Valley located? A READER. Philadelphia.

State Flower of Texas.

What is the State flower of Texas and of Louisiana? DAILY READER. The blue bonnet for Texas, and the magnolia for Louisiana.

The Population of Havana, Cuba.

Please tell me the population of Havana, Cuba. A SUBSCRIBER. The population of the city was 237,150 and of the province 538,010 in 1907.

The Republic Disaster.

Please give me the date of the Republic disaster last year. Y. X. January 23, 1910.

The Mississippi River.

Will you kindly tell me how wide, and how deep, the Mississippi River is at Hickman, Kentucky, and at New Orleans, Louisiana? N. J. B. The depth of the Mississippi at New Orleans varies from twenty to two hundred feet. We find a record of the depth of the river at Hickman. If you will write to the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, you can get the information you desire.

Jack Johnson and Sam Langford.

Has Jack Johnson ever fought the negro, Sam Langford? READER. Johnson met Sam Langford April 25, 1908, at Chelsea and defeated him in fifteen rounds.

The First Sewing Cotton.

Can you tell me when sewing cotton was first invented? A SUBSCRIBER. According to Census Bulletin No. 97, the first sewing cotton thread ever made was spun in 1734 from Sea Island cotton.

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